

**Amendments to the Specification:**

Please substitute the following paragraph for the paragraph beginning on line 16 of page 3:

Referring now to the accompanying drawings, FIG. 1 shows an embodiment of the invention with a schematic side view of an imaging mechanism 30 and a carrying element 1, which are secured in an electrophotographic printing machine. Shown is a carrying element 1, which in this embodiment is a conveyor belt that conveys printing media through a printing machine in the direction indicated by the arrow designated by the numeral 2. The carrying element can also be, for example, a cylinder in an electrophotographic printing machine that carries images on its outer surface, such as an imaging cylinder. The carrying element 1 is stretched across several rollers and is of a closed loop configuration. In the course of manufacturing, various methods are used to join the ends of the carrying element 1, and in this example, the ends of the conveyer belt are welded together.